

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 10th, 1889

The Superintendent, U.S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

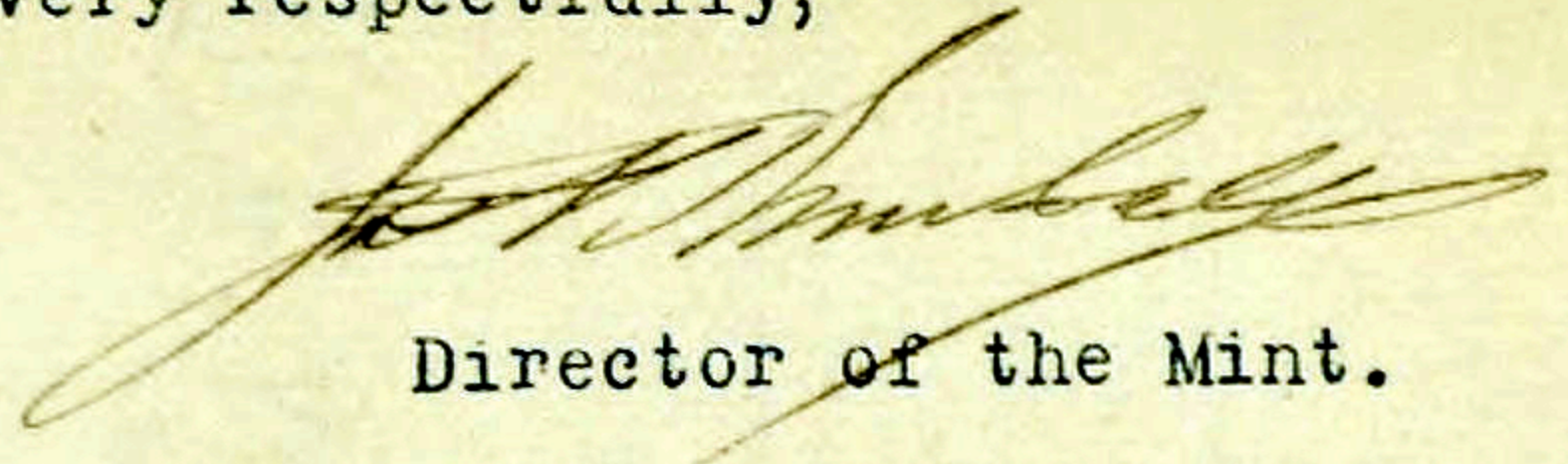
Sir:

Replying to your letter of yesterday, and enclosure from Mr. Eckfeldt, on the subject of returns of assays of a number of small gold deposits, from the assay offices, after mass melting, it is important to direct your attention to the circumstance that the fractions, in the practice at the assay offices, are in their favor; so that it would appear that there ought not to be any shortage on bars compounded of small deposits, if the assays are properly made at the assay offices, which I have no reason to question. It is well understood that the practice at your institution is not to render as close a return for fractions on assay office bars as in the case of the assay office at New York. The repeated occurrence of shortage on a compounded bar from two separate assay offices seems to require more than ordinary attention.

To aid me in an investigation of the matter you will please instruct the assayer to forward to the department a statement of his several assays of the compounded bars in which a shortage has been found against the mint at Denver and the assay office at Helena since

the first of July, since which date the matter has assumed importance. What I desire principally is the details of his several assays, and the average reported. I refer to the first two shipments of this year from the mint at Denver, and shipment No. 5 from the assay office at Helena.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Murray", written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Director of the Mint.

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Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
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Very respectfully,
James P. Kimball
Director of the Mint.